Physiology Newsletter

The Annual Physiology Retreat– after being cancelled in 2020 and rescheduled in 2021– was a success!

Almost everyone was able to make it out to our first departmental gathering since 2019! Professor of Medicine and Director of Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine Bench Research, Dr. Larissa Shimoda, gave the faculty talk on her research on ion channels and transporters that mediate the pathogenesis of pulmonary hypertension. If you want to read more about Dr. Shimoda’s work, you can check out her recent review, Cellular Pathways Promoting Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling by Hypoxia, published in Physiology. We heard fantastic talks from graduate students, Anishaa Mahdiyal, Zach Chen, and Dylan Sarver, as well as a great talk from post-doctoral fellow, Yu Wang.

Dr. William (Bill) Pavan, Department of Physiology alumni returned to give a talk on his research and reflecting on his career

Bill was Roger Reeves’ first graduate student and is notable as the only member of the BCMB program to do bench work with a baby in a carrier on his back. Dr. Pavan now serves as the Director of the NHGRI (National Human Genome Research Institute) Intramural Training Office, where he oversees the career development of post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and pre-doctoral fellows as well as summer students. His eight publications from this time in Roger Reeve’s lab, combined with consistent and notable success throughout his career, provides proof for generations of potential students that there is a possibility of a successful career after the Reeves lab!

Dylan Sarver wins the Maria del Carmen Vitery Graduate Student Award

This award was established in honor of a previous graduate student in the department, Maria del Carmen Vitery, who tragically passed away in 2019. Maria is remembered for her exemplary services and contribution to the university and broader community. Each year this award honors a current student who, like Maria, excels in their research and has demonstrated commitment to service and outreach. This year, Dylan Sarver was awarded this honor for his excellence in research – he currently has ~20 publications related to his graduate work and for his commitment to the community. Dylan initiated the first ever departmental retreat in 2019!

Thank you to all the faculty and trainees who worked hard to make sure this retreat could happen and put together everything! We appreciate you!

Photos courtesy of Manuela Ribas Andrade and Mackenzie Kui
Nov 12: Journal Club at Noon
IN-PERSON IN THE PHYSIOLOGY LIBRARY
Dylan Sarver and Hayden Hyatt

Nov 19: Department Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Journal Club

Nov 25: Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 1: Peter Maloney Memorial Lecture, Noon
Speaker: Jue Chen, PhD
William E. Ford Professor of Biochemistry
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator
Rockefeller University

Dec 3: Department Research Seminar at Noon (Lutsenko Lab theme)
Ekaterina Sabin
Yu Wang, PhD

Other Events
Nov. 11: Veteran’s Day
Nov. 12: State of Johns Hopkins Medicine Address by Dean Rothman, noon
Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

PDCO Calendar

Welcome!

One more new Physiology baby! Congratulations to Nathan Zaidman, postdoc in the Pluznick Lab, and his wife on the birth of their baby girl on October 13!

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Awards and Accomplishments: A Year of Awards in Review

Qui Lab:
James Osei-Owusu: The Martin and Carol Macht Research Award, JHMI Young Investigators Award Program
Ljubica Mihaljevic: Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds (BIF) PhD fellowship
Junhua Yang: Career Development Award from the American Heart Association (AHA)

Pluznick Lab:
Nathan Zaidman: K99/R00 Pathways to Independence Award; JHU Postdoctoral Research Accelerator Award; The Alfred Blalock Research Award, JHMI Young Investigators Award Program; American Journal of Physiology (AJP) Renal Early Career Editorial Fellowship Program
Jiaojiao Xu: Selected to give an oral presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Nephrology Young Investigators Research Forum and won third place in the basic science category. She was then invited to give an oral presentation at the National Nephrology Young Investigators Research Forum and won third place in the basic science category.
Brittni Moore: Selected as a 2021 SMDP Biotech Scholar
Jen Pluznick: Graduate Studies Alumni Council’s 2021 Early Career Achievement Award; Nebraska Medical Center AHA Council on Hypertension Mid-Career Award for Research Excellence

Claypool Lab:
Nanami Senoo: Postdoctoral fellowship Award from the American Heart Association and the Barth Syndrome Foundation; 2021 MD Stem Cell Research Fund Award (declined)
Alex Maya-Romero: Diversity Supplement to support his training
Juliana Marquez: Awarded an Administrative Supplement to Support Undergraduate Summer Research Experiences award
Erica Avery: Awarded a “JH Needs U COVID Wellbeing Grant” for Spring 2021. Ran a panel session covering various topics related to living with a disability during a pandemic. Awarded the Johns Hopkins Medicine National Disability Employment Awareness Month Achiever’s Award for her disability advocacy work.

Lutsenko Lab:
Kelly Summers: The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada Post-Doctoral Fellowship
Clorissa Washington-Hughes: Selected by the organizers of the Symposium “Excellence in Diversity” to generate a video based on her research

Kralli Lab:
Alexa Wade: Awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from the AHA

Sun Lab:
Zhao Zhang: Toffler Scholar Award for innovative thinking and research excellence
Shaopeng Wang and Yini Li: Excellence in Basic Research Award at the 2021 Pathology Young Investigators' Day
Yingzhi Ye: Officially became a Doctoral Candidate (passed her DBO)

Dawson Lab:
Aanishaa Jhaldiyal: Best Poster Prize, The Journal of Cell Biology (JCB) and Journal of Experimental Medicine (JEM) Symposium on Neurodegeneration
Valina Dawson: Elected as a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors

Publications

Manuscripts
A new paper from the Lutsenko lab, Hepatic steatosis in the mouse model of Wilson disease coincides with a muted inflammatory response, is now available online from The American Journal of Pathology. This paper is the work of former Lutsenko lab post-doc, Aline Gottlieb, and current post-doc, Som Dev. They found that a high fat, “Western” diet increased body fat content and induced liver steatosis in both males and females in both wild-type and Wilson disease model mice. Additionally, this high fat diet resulted in down-regulation of cholesterol biosynthesis, altered nuclear receptor signaling, and changed cytoskeletal markers. This work also provides new information on the role of copper in liver steatosis, especially in Wilson disease, and suggests that there is an overlap between the metabolic effects of copper overload and high caloric intake.